(ii) Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of outer Space for Peaceful Purposes; and

(iii) Agreement on Scientific, Technical and Environmental Cooperation and Transfer of Technology.

(c) The above agreements will contribute to closer cooperation between India and Thailand in the specific areas covered such as information technology, space, and science and technology and environment.

(d) While the MoU on Information Technology and Services is valid for 3 years, the other two Agreements— on Cooperation m the Exploration and Use of Outer Space and on Scientific, Technical and Enviromental Cooperation—are valid for 5-years each.

Terrorist groups banned by USA

†4571. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the terrorist organisations and groups which were involved in terrorist activities in India have been banned by the America during last one year;

(b) the names of terrorist organisations and groups in whose respect the imposition of the ban was requested by Government but the U.S. have not banned them, so far;

(c) the number of Pakistan based terrorist groups which are operating their terrorist activities in India; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government for getting them banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) All major Pakistan-based terrorist organisations involved in terrorist activities in India have been prescribed by the United States under the provisions of its domestic law. These include Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-lslam and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of the efforts of the members of these banned organisations to regroup under new names and establish new organisations to continue terrorist activities in India. Government shares information and evidence in this regard with a number of countries, including the United States.

Nexus between Indian terrorists and Nepalese Maoist

4572. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian terrorists outfits are giving assistance to Maoist militants who have unleashed a rekjn of terror in Nepal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Maoist have developed nexus with India's MCC and PWG;

(c) whether the issue came up for discussion in the recent official meeting of both the countries; and

(d) if so, the details of decision taken therein?-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) There are unconfirmed reports of linkages between Nepal's Maoists and Indian terrorist outfits particularly the MCC and the PWG. Government of India has banned the PWG (People's War Group) and the MCC (Maoist Communist Centre) and is keeping a close vigil in this regard.

(c) and (d) Issues relating to terrorism and cross-border crimes were discussed during the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to India from March 20—25, 2002. The two Governments agreed to intensify their ongoing cooperation for combating terrorism and cross-border crimes, and to continue working closely with each other.